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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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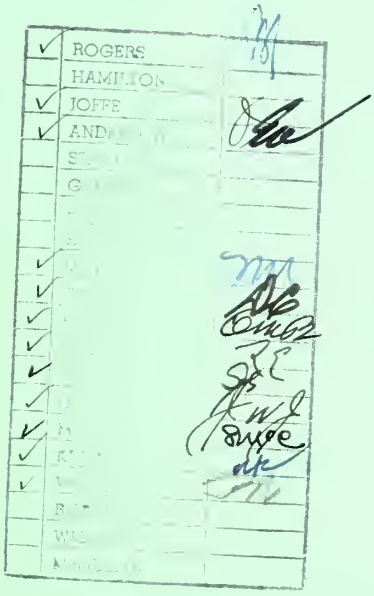
SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1952



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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the November 1952 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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WEATHER:	Dry until snowfall on 12th. Precipitation below normal. Mammoth maximum 48°, minimum -15°. Below zero 5 days.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers & Joffe to Dude Ranchers meeting. Rogers to Bozeman & Teton, to Denver on assignment until March. Hamilton & Robinson to South Gate with Rogers & around loop without difficulty. Road barricaded Mammoth terraces 24th; earlier closings. Robinson to Denver school on conducting driver tests. McMullin to Glacier for surplus. Mattson to Teton. Kocher to Detroit for trucks. Evans to Montana Wildlife Fed. meeting. Authority continue cooks & helpers on 56-hour week. Peter Rorwick, retired Mixed Gang Foreman, presented awards & Outstanding rating.	1-2
INSPECTIONS:	Richard Ketcham, Engineer from Region assigned to Yellowstone, departed 19th.	2
PUBLICITY:	Livingston Enterprise advised of road closings. Supply Big Hole folders received. 169,500 Yellowstone broadsides on hand.	2-3
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Yellowstone Weekly News.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Engineer Ketcham, on assignment for summer, returned to Omaha. Canyon Campground Road plans expected ready for advertising in spring. Meeting with R.E.A. re. possibility of bringing power in from West Yell. Special development program being reviewed by Region.	3
MAINTENANCE:	Road camps closed by 19th & roads closed to public by 16th. Snow stakes, storing equipment, snowplowing, sanding. Ice in ditches.	3
CONSTRUCTION:	Clearing operations on surfacing job & sewer & water job at Canyon closed down. Except for prefabrication, construction closed down.	3-4
COMPLAINTS:	One complaint letter.	4

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CONCESSIONERS:	Robert Henry Purchasing Agent for Y. P. Co. John Nichols & R. H. Buck to La Jolla. W. M. Nichols trip to New York & Wash. D. C. Y. P. Co. construction closed down. Mr. & Mrs. Haynes in. Y. P. Co. garage closed for while.	4
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School. Choir. Mammoth-Gardiner young people Christian group. Church services.	4-5
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Trail labels brought in for servicing. Condon talked to Sanitary Training course group.	5
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Museum workshop in use. Wayside exhibits & Norris Museum foyer readied for winter. Plans for vandalism exhibit & exhibit on photographing geysers at O. F. Museum. Rotted log rafter projections cut off at F. Bridge Museum. Memos on museum & amphitheater needs.	5
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Watson study on Norris Geyser Basin. Elmore visit to Shoshone Geyser Basin. Marler research on thermal areas around Old Faithful.	5-6
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Mrs. Quist employed part time. Nature Notes; paper purchased.	6
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	4,129 persons entered; 174% increase over last November due late closings.	6
RANGER SERVICE:	Station closings. Patrol cabins ready. Hunting patrols. Moves. Dumps burned.	6-7
WILDLIFE: ELK HUNTING SEASON:	About 100 from northern Yell. herd. No migration; poor hunting. 70 from Gallatin; season closed there.	7
ELK TRAPPING:	Traps in condition. Trapping awaiting snow.	7
BISON:	4 bison killed Firehole area to observe reactions to slaughter. Abattoir facilities necessary.	7
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Fire equipment brought in for inventory & repair. Work on Fire Atlas.	8
BLISTER RUST CONTROL:	Pumps sent for repair. Bur. of Ento. recommended purchase 1½-ton stake truck. Region contacted re. disposal unsuitable bus.	8
BUILDING FIRE CONTROL:	Extinguishers received. Inspections to begin soon.	8
TRAILS:	Shop set up for trail sign making.	8

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ACCIDENTS:	Eleven vehicle accidents mostly due driving too fast for road conditions.	8
BIRTHS:	Sons born to Carl Grueners and to Tom Closes.	8
DEATHS:	Donald Duff, of Wisconsin Central Airlines and former temporary ranger, died in Minneapolis.	9
PERSONNEL:	Donald Kern and John Rohn appointed Park Rangers, GS-5. George Marler temp. appt. Park Naturalist for assignment to Old Faithful. Supervisory Park Ranger Paul Wykert transferred to Bureau of Land Management. Royal Grover furloughed as Operator, General. Marjorie Proper terminated as seasonal Clerk-Typist. David Pierson promoted to Head Animal Keeper, CPC-9 and James Kimberlin to Asst. Animal Keeper, CPC-7. Gerald Rowe, Engineer (Civil) GS-9, to transfer to Region Four office. Francis Elmore, Park Naturalist, GS-7, to two weeks Navy training.	9
MISCELLANEOUS:	Monthly meetings of F. E. U. and A. F. G. E. Mammoth Library officers elected.	9-10

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

FFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 9, 1952

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for November 1952

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of November 1952:

Weather Conditions. The prolonged dry period which extended over September and October continued until November 12 at which time this station received 0.21" precipitation. Although 0.21" did occur on the above date, only 0.45" precipitation fell during the entire month. All this moisture was in the form of snow. Three inches of snow was measured on the ground at the month's end. The total precipitation was well below normal for the month as compared with the past seven-year record.

Temperatures probably averaged approximately normal for the month with a maximum of 48° being recorded on the 4th and a minimum of -15° on the 26th. Below zero temperatures were recorded on 5 days which occurred during the latter part of the month.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers and Administrative Assistant Joffe departed for Billings, Montana, November 17 and 16, respectively, to attend the annual convention of the Dude Ranchers Association November 16-19, returning on the 20th. Mr. Rogers made a trip November 6 to the library at Bozeman in connection with his legislative history project and to Grand Teton National Park on the 9th for conference with Superintendent Freeland. He departed on the 24th via South Entrance for Denver, Colorado, where he will be on assignment until early March.

Assistant Superintendent Hamilton and Mechanical Supervisor Robinson accompanied Mr. Rogers to the South Entrance on the 24th by way of Canyon and Lake, returning via Old Faithful, and encountered no difficulty in traveling the park roads, which is unusual for this time of the year. The road was barricaded on this date at the Mammoth terraces to prevent any further visitor travel into the interior of the park. Earlier closing dates for visitor travel were

November 13 for the Dunraven Pass road, November 14 final closing of the Red Lodge-Cooke road although this section was first closed by the storm of November 1, and the 16th for all other roads.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson departed for Denver, Colorado, November 3 to attend a school conducted November 5-7 by the Civil Service Commission for supervisors giving examinations for drivers of Government trucks and equipment. He returned on the 9th.

Electrical Supervisor McMullin departed for Glacier National Park November 6 to pick up surplus property and return it to Yellowstone.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson made a trip to Teton November 12, returning on the 13th.

Mechanic (Heavy Duty) Kocher departed November 17 for Detroit to bring back two panel trucks, returning on the 25th.

Assistant Chief Ranger Evans represented the park at the Seventeenth Annual Montana Wildlife Federation Conference held in Helena November 22-23. He beiefly outlined the N. P. S. program to maintain representative numbers of native animals within Service areas and discussed problem of surplus elk in the northern Yellowstone herd.

Authority was received from the Director November 19 to continue Cooks and Cooks Helpers on a 56-hour-week basis for the 1953 calendar year.

Peter Rorwick, Mixed Gang Foreman, who retired September 30, was awarded a Certificate of Honor Award and a Citation for Meritorious Service, both signed by Secretary Chapman. He also received an Outstanding performance rating covering the last rating period which is only the second such rating approved by the Service since the present performance rating system became effective in March 1951, and was also presented a lifetime pass to areas of the National Park System, a silver medal and lapel button.

Inspections. Richard W. Ketcham, Engineer from the Region Two Office, who has been on assignment in Yellowstone since May 28, left November 19 to return to Omaha.

Publicity. The Livingston Enterprise was advised November 18 of the closing of park roads for release of this information to the public.

Ten thousand Big Hole Battlefield National Monument folders were received November 19.

A total of 169,500 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the end of the month.

In-Service Training. The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued each Thursday during the month with a view to keeping employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Engineer Richard Ketcham, who has been assigned to Yellowstone for the summer season, left the park for his return to Omaha on November 19.

The Canyon Campground Roads plans were not ready for fall advertising but it is expected the engineering division of the Regional Office will have them ready for advertising for contract in the spring.

The power picture has not changed since last month although the R. E. A. interests in the town of West Yellowstone conferred with us regarding the possibilities of the Service using power from the outside and what effect it might have on their obtaining better power from the Montana Power Company should that company be providing the power into the park from the west side.

The special development program which was prepared by the Superintendent for the improvement of facilities within the park is now being reviewed in the Regional Office and will be discussed during the winter.

Maintenance. November was nearer a normal month with regard to weather conditions than September and October. All road maintenance camps were closed by November 19 and all roads except that from Gardiner to Cooke were closed to public travel on November 16, but with the use of chains one could still get to Lake and Old Faithful throughout the month. Work during the month consisted of replacing snow stakes and moving and storing equipment with some plowing the latter part of the month. Due to the lack of early snow cover, ice has built up and filled a good many sections of road ditch. The first snowfall was preceded by rain in most places, which froze on the pavement, causing slick sections and requiring heavy sanding.

Construction. On Loop Highway Project 1-F3, G4, Top Surfacing, parking areas and connecting roads, Canyon area, Strong Company, contractor, practically all clearing has been completed and brush burned. The work was closed down for the winter and the contractor moved out November 8.

On November 15 Cop Construction Company of Billings closed down for the winter their clearing operations in connection with the water and sewer construction project in the Canyon area.

Yellowstone National Park Archives

Except for such prefabrication as can be carried on during the winter, all rehabilitation and construction projects are closed down until spring.

Complaints. One letter of complaint was received during the month of November regarding early closing of concession facilities.

Concessioners. On November 1 Robert Henry, who has been Manager of Old Faithful Inn for several seasons, took over the job of Purchasing Agent for the Yellowstone Park Company succeeding Henry Steffens.

John Q. Nichols, Vice-President, and R. H. Buck, Assistant Manager, Hotel Division, Yellowstone Park Company, departed November 19 and November 5, respectively, for La Jolla, California, for the winter. W. M. Nichols, President of the Company, made a trip to New York and Washington, D. C., where he conferred with National Park Service officials, expecting to return to Helena December 3 and leave on the 9th for La Jolla.

The Yellowstone Park Company discontinued work on the cabins at West Thumb on November 10 and closed operations at Lake on the 22nd by which date all their other construction projects had been closed down for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Haynes, of Haynes Inc., visited Mammoth November 22 from their home in Bozeman.

The Yellowstone Park Company closed their garage at Gardiner on November 28. A part of the force is expected to return January 1 to resume operations while others will report March 1.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Sunday School services were held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The children's choir was organized during the month and practices have been conducted. About 18 children are participating up-to-date.

During the month a Mammoth-Gardiner young people's Christian fellowship group was organized. This Christian activity is being sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. William Armstrong and Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Egger. The group meets every Sunday evening at 6:15 and will meet two successive Sundays each month in Mammoth and the succeeding two Sundays in Gardiner, alternating in this manner for the balance of the winter. Fourteen young people attended the initial meeting of this group and it is anticipated that participation in the program will be even greater as the winter progresses. Wayne Hamilton, son of Assistant Superintendent Hamilton, was elected President of this youth organization.

Yellowstone P.L. Wyoming

The regular Park County Ministerial Association religious service was held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel on the 16th at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. Arthur W. Seebart conducting the service.

Interpretive Services. All the self-guiding nature trail labels were brought in from the trails for servicing and refurbishing preparatory for their use next season.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon gave a talk at the banquet for the second annual Sanitary Training course at the Montana State College, Bozeman, on the evening of November 20. The subject of his talk was "Geyserland". There were about 100 people in attendance at the program.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The museum workshop is now in a sufficiently completed state that many odd jobs can be handled there, and the power tools are all set up and in operation.

At mid-month all of the wayside exhibits throughout the park were shuttered and the exhibits in the museum foyer at Norris Museum were placed under cover.

The plans for a vandalism exhibit case for installation at the Old Faithful Museum were finished in rough form and submitted to the Regional Office for transmission to the Director's Office if the plans were satisfactory.

A great deal of work was accomplished in the preparation of plans for a museum exhibit case for the Old Faithful museum which would treat the subject of photographing the geysers in geyserland.

During the month the log rafters projecting beyond the eaves at the Fishing Bridge Museum were cut off. These logs had been seriously affected by dry rot and many of them presented very unsightly appearances, and in addition the rot threatened to continue on up the rafter timbers.

With respect to the museums and the physical plants operated by the Naturalist Division a number of memoranda were prepared listing the physical needs for the improvement of the museums and the amphitheaters so that proper consideration could be given to these needs in making budget requests in the future.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalist Watson devoted several days time to a continuation of the Norris Geyser Basin study and toward the end of the month was devoting his time to a review of the field notes and writing manuscript material.

Park Naturalist Elmore visited the Shoshone Geyser Basin on November 1 and 2 and has this to say: "Was not fortunate enough to see the Union Geyser erupt although we spent considerable time

waiting in its vicinity. Minute Man was as regular as has been reported and it was stimulating to see a practically untouched area with all of the geyserite and pool edges still intact. And not only that but all still beautifully colored."

Park Naturalist Marler on reporting the activities of the geysers in the geyser basins indicates that all the features are continuing to erupt with undiminishing regularity and that such major geysers as the Bee Hive, Giant, Splendid and Morning geyser are all erupting on intervals as frequent or more so than during the summer months. On November 22 Chief Park Naturalist Condon made a trip to the Upper Geyser Basin areas and at that time reviewed with Mr. Marler the program of research observations which he is to conduct this winter.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Alice Quist was employed several afternoons during the month as a clerk for the association and has worked on the book sales business and in addition has done considerable work on the photographic files.

The November-December issue of Yellowstone Nature Notes was edited, stencils cut and it will be ready for distribution early in December. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association purchased 24 reams of paper for use in the publication of this.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 4,129 persons entered the park this month as compared with 1,505 for the same month last year, or an increase of 174%. This large increase in travel was probably due to the late date that the park roads were open to travel this year. None of the roads in the high areas were completely impassable at the month's end except for the Cooke-Red Lodge road which was closed on the 14th. The Tower Fall-Canyon road was closed on the 13th while the remainder of the park roads were closed to public travel on the 16th.

Ranger Service. The Old Faithful District Ranger moved from the station on November 1; however Seasonal Park Naturalist Marler occupied the station on the 2nd for the winter in connection with his thermal studies. The Lake and Canyon Ranger Stations were closed on the 26th. All the final work in preparing the patrol cabins and other stations for the winter was completed by the end of the month.

Hunting patrols were maintained along the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the park. The Grayling Creek Game Checking Station between West Yellowstone and Gallatin has been manned most of the month. Since the park has only three inches of snow to six inches the elk have not migrated out of the park which has resulted in light hunting activities and only 70 elk being taken on the Gallatin side by the end of the regular hunting season in that area.

The Chief Ranger and Assistants made numerous inspections of the field work being carried on including the repair of elk traps in preparation for winter operations.

All the winter personnel moves were finally completed this month except for Supervisory Park Ranger Arnold who will move to Mammoth when the East Entrance area receives a good snowfall.

Every dump in the park which contained combustible material was burned during the early part of this month. Due to the long period of dry weather, these dumps burned out completely.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK HUNTING SEASON. The District Forest Ranger, Gardiner District, Gallatin National Forest, reports that approximately 70 elk were taken in the Hellroaring, Buffalo, Slough Creek and Cooke areas where the open season extended from September 15 through November 15. The estimated kill of 30 additional elk in the Jardine, Mol Heron and Tom Miner areas from October 15 through November brought the total kill from the northern Yellowstone herd to about 100 animals. There was little or no snow over the elk ranges until mid-November and only light snow after that time. No migration of elk to the hunting areas was noted during the month.

Hunting conditions in the upper Gallatin area were equally poor and the total kill from October 15 through November 30 was about 70 animals. Closure of this season was to become effective at the close of December 1, so the desired harvest of 400 elk will not be achieved unless the Montana Fish and Game Commission takes action to reopen the season.

ELK TRAPPING. Five elk traps were placed in condition for operation but no bait was put out due to an abundance of natural forage and a very light snow cover in the vicinity of the traps. Trapping will commence when snow depths increase sufficiently to restrict the natural forage supply and the elk become hungry enough to be attracted by hay.

BISON. Four bison, including one cow and three bulls, were slaughtered in the lower Firehole River area in the Old Faithful District on November 19 in order to observe the reaction of the bands to shooting and the disturbance incident to a reduction operation on the open range. The animals proved difficult to approach and stampeded when the shooters attempted to approach them. However, they became confused and milled about the wounded animals after shooting started. The opportunities for observation were too limited to serve as a basis for predicting probable herd behavior if a large scale reduction were undertaken. Handling the carcasses, which were delivered to the National Park Service storehouse, convinced all who participated in the work that abattoir facilities are essential to any slaughter program carried on to reduce the interior bison herds.

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Forest Fire Protection. Considerable time was spent during November by both Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and Smokejumper Squad Leader Gorsuch in bringing in fire equipment from the various fire caches and storing it for winter at the Mammoth Fire Cache. With a few exceptions all equipment was brought to headquarters in order that a good inventory and needed repairs can be made before the next fire season.

Mr. Gorsuch spent some time during the end of the month on the preparation of the material for the Fire Atlas.

Blister Rust Control. The trombone pumps were sent to the Bureau of Entomology at Clarkia, Idaho, for checking and repair.

The Bureau of Entomology recommended the purchase of a 1½-ton Chevrolet Stake Truck from the G.S.A. to be used in transporting equipment and men to the Carnelian Creek area next season.

The Region Two Office was contacted regarding the disposal of the International bus which is being carried on the Blister Rust Control equipment inventory and which has not been used for some time due to its unsuitability for work in a mountainous area.

Building Fire Control. Three 1-gallon CCl_4 fire extinguishers and 60 foam charges were received from Surplus Property during the month.

It is anticipated that Building Fire Hazard and extinguisher inspections will be started in the Mammoth area sometime in December.

Trails. Preparations were made for the manufacture of trail signs during the winter. A work shop is being set up in the north end of the pistol range building and it is anticipated that a considerable number of trail signs can be fabricated if labor is available.

Accidents and Public Safety. Eleven motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month, two being Class "B" and the other nine Class "A". Seven of these accidents involved park visitors, three involved concessioner employees, and one involved a Government employee. All of these accidents were single car accidents. No serious injuries were sustained; however, considerable property damage resulted. Traveling too fast under the prevailing conditions of icy and snowy roads was the predominate factor causing most of these accidents.

Births. A son, Mark Joseph, was born on November 9 to Park Ranger and Mrs. Carl Gruener in Washington, D. C., where Mr. Gruener is on detail as a departmental management trainee.

A son, weighing 3½ pounds, was born to seasonal Storekeeper and Mrs. Tom Close November 18 at the Lott Hospital in Livingston.

Deaths. Donald A. Duff, age 48, Executive Vice-President and General Manager, Wisconsin Central Airlines, died November 14 in a Minneapolis hospital following a major operation. He was a temporary ranger in Yellowstone during the seasons of 1926 and 1927 and has been in the air transportation business for 24 years.

Personnel. Donald G. Kern received probational appointment as Park Ranger, GS-5, effective October 26, by selection from the Civil Service register.

John F. Rohn, Jr. entered on duty November 3 under temporary appointment as Park Ranger, GS-5 (not to exceed December 2, 1952). On November 30 he received probational appointment in that capacity by selection from Civil Service register.

George D. Marler received temporary appointment as Park Naturalist, GS-5 on November 3 for winter assignment to Old Faithful on further observations of the hydrothermal activity in that area.

Paul V. Wykert, Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-6, was released at the close of November 4 for promotion (indefinite) and change of headquarters to the position of Forester (Timber Management), GS-7, Bureau of Land Management, Medford, Oregon.

Royal E. Grover was furloughed as Operator, General (Mobile Power Equipment) at 3 p.m. November 7.

Marjorie C. Proper, seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3, was terminated at the close of November 7.

On November 12, David W. Pierson received indefinite promotion from Buffalo Keeper, CPC-7 to the newly established position of Head Animal Keeper, CPC-9, and James C. Kimberlin from Buffalo Herder, CPC-6 to the new position of Assistant Animal Keeper, CPC-7.

Gerald A. Rowe, Engineer (Civil), GS-9, has accepted a transfer to a similar position in the Region Four Office, expecting to leave Yellowstone December 19 and take annual leave before reporting at San Francisco January 19.

Francis H. Elmore, Park Naturalist, GS-7, departed for Chicago November 26 for two weeks Navy training beginning December 1.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held November 3 in the Canteen.

On November 17 the regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen.

At a meeting of the Mammoth Library Board November 4 the following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Melvin Thuring, Chairman; Mrs. Stanley McComas, First Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Gene Herne, Second Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Edward Schultz, Finance Chairman; Mrs. Ruben Hart, Book Chairman; and Mrs. Roger Miller, Secretary-Treasurer. The Board Members had been elected at the Annual Library Meeting October 21.

Warren F. Hamilton
Acting Superintendent

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